

VIA: AIR
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DISPATCH NO. MAVA 8752

CLASSIFICATION

TO : Chief, Foreign Division M

DATE: 5 July 1951

FROM : Chief of Station, Vienna PP/mw

Attention: C

SUBJECT: GENERAL - Operational

SPECIFIC: C

] Progress Report for June 1951

1. During the reporting period, C has spent a great deal of time in rounding off the interrogation of Ferenc FARKAS, concerning whom a preliminary report was forwarded (MAVA-8533). Up to now, we have been unable to arrange the parallel interrogation in Salzburg of Tamas HERCZEG, FARKAS' friend and travelling companion, which would give us a check on the FARKAS story to some degree. C has informed us that he has laid on an interrogation through CIO in Salzburg. We have not attempted to carry through with a carriage test for FARKAS, but will do so if Headquarters so advises (VIEN-5674, para 2). A final report on FARKAS will be ready in the near future.

2. While attempting to arrange for a visa for his mother to visit Austria (primarily to take medical treatments in Bad Gleichenberg, Styria), C met a young Austrian who works in the Visa Section of the Austrian Foreign Office and is preparing for foreign assignment. He is Harry TIEFENTHALER, aged about 25, single, described by C as likeable and friendly. TIEFENTHALER proved very helpful to C in the visa matter, and the two men struck up an acquaintance. He informed C that he is concerned with several visa cases involving legal emigration from Hungary on the basis of an Austrian entry permit plus a visa to some other country, so that the Austrians knew that the person concerned will not tarry in Austria. C mentioned the case of Paul HEMES, and TIEFENTHALER at once commented that he could forward a letter through the Austrian diplomatic pouch to Budapest where an unspecified friend in the Austrian Legation will see that the letter is forwarded. (Comment: Since the "friend" is described as an important official, it is barely possible that he may be Grisette.) Further details on TIEFENTHALER will follow when obtained. We have no file traces.

3. The attempted recruitment of Rudolf PIPPERSTEINER (MAVA-8231) has progressed to this extent: Mrs. Paul LUKAS, the actor's wife, has written C from Hollywood that she is fearful for the safety of her brother, Paul HEMES, and will proceed no further in attempting to bring him out of Hungary. C feels that the collapse of the scheme to bring out HEMES and family will mean that Jeno STRASSER will discontinue contact with PIPPERSTEINER. In the next few days C can pick up contact with PIPPERSTEINER, and proposes to work towards a recruitment. It will be remembered that PIPPERSTEINER does not know C.

CLASSIFICATION

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true name. Other available information makes us incline to the belief that PIPPERSTEINER is ripe for recruitment. While we intend to leave the decision up to Headquarters, we hope that when the time comes [] will be allowed to carry on. Both his morale and his usefulness to the Station would benefit from recruiting an individual with possibilities as promising as PIPPERSTEINER's. At the same time, we are inclined to risk possible compromise of [] security by this excellent chance to launch him into a more active operational status. Details will be communicated by cable, should a chance to recruit PIPPERSTEINER occur in the next few days.

4. In line with the terms of his contract, [] was allowed to purchase a new automobile for personal and cover use, with a promise of reimbursement exclusively for the freight charges from the USA. He ordered and has now picked up a 1951 Chevrolet from the Chevrolet dealer, R. Davuvier, 54 rue Octave Mirbeau, Paris 17e, France. Payment was made to General Motors Overseas Operations, 1775 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y. The vehicle has been registered under TTX plates to avoid payment of Austrian customs (a normal procedure, which [] had adopted for his last car). The freight charges in question will amount to \$350.00 (New York to Le Havre).

5. In order to pick up his car, [] travelled to Paris during the last week of June. This was the occasion for re-introduction of a note of romance into his life. In Paris a friend of his estranged wife informed him that the wife (name given in para 13 of attachment to MAVA-3273), who has since remarried, is now separated from her current husband and had just arrived in France. [] looked up his wife and as if by magic a speedy reconciliation was effected. While his matrimonial plans are hazy, he induced her to come with him to Vienna and as a very devout Catholic looks upon her still as his wife. The unexpected reunion has given him an immense upsurge of good spirits and the net effect will probably be to stabilize his life and lend him more self-confidence. We shall forward full biographical details as obtained, but do not think that [] marital affairs will interfere with his intelligence work any more than his extra-marital relations have done in the past.

6. [] last list of contacts and his operational diary were too scrappy. This was pointed out to him, and he promised to improve them when they are next submitted.

7. [] will be used in the next few days to look over a deserter from a DDSG tanker recently turned over to us by ONI. The deserter, PERCEC FABIAN, born 29 February 1923 in Bonyretalap, Hungary, jumped ship in Vienna on 11 May 1951. FABIAN and his wife Georgeta Nees OCSTKA, born 28 January 1928 in Nedeleu Chercea, Braila District, Rumania, turned themselves over to the Austrian police in the US Sector of Vienna on 11 May 1951, were screened by MIS and passed on to the Navy for an interrogation which has just now been terminated. It is not likely that FABIAN is himself an operational possibility, but he may be able to furnish leads to other sailors plying the Danube. In particular, his brother Gheorghe FABIAN, born in 1929 in Bonyretalap, Hungary, is a fireman aboard a Messhart vessel, the Felcsabzdulas. The FABIANs are being transferred to an operational area for interrogation by Crit 1. A separate report will be submitted.

Dist:
2 Regs.
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